

ABSTRACTS

Brigid Laffan and Imogen Sudbury

On the Constitutional Treaty Ratification Failure – Three Readings and their Critiques

This paper takes the debate over the ratification failure as a lens through which to consider the theoretical debate around the EU's political order after the 2004 enlargement. What does the failure tell us about the nature of the EU as a political system? The first section explores how scholars from three different theoretical standpoints have answered this question. While all three argue that it need not be a disaster for the future of the integration process, their arguments stem from contrasting descriptions of the EU, and give rise to conflicting prescriptions and predictions for its future development. The second section then critiques each of these standpoints using the theoretical concepts of political system building. An analysis from this perspective paints a more nuanced picture, suggesting that the ambiguity arising from the current 'loosely bounded' nature of the EU generates lingering tensions which could ultimately lead to its disintegration.

Annette Jünemann und Michèle Knodt

The External Promotion of Democracy by the European Union – Instrumental Choices of the EU from a Comparative Perspective

The question of the external promotion of democracy by the European Union currently lies at the top of the political agenda. Through foreign policy governance, the EU exports its model of legitimate democratic governance to third countries, where it acts as an external 'democratiser'. With this development, scholarly research has now also begun to turn to the question of the external promotion of democracy. The overwhelming majority of these research efforts is however comprised only of individual case studies of third countries or a given region. In this essay, the promotion of democracy by the EU in non-candidate countries is subjected to a comparative analysis in order to evaluate the conditions of the EU's instrumental and strategic choices in this important policy area.

Sebastian Wolf

On the Future of the Euratom Treaty

The central stipulations of the Euratom Treaty have not been amended since the document took effect in 1958, which indicates that current European energy policy will hardly be able to cope with radically changed conditions. Even the Convention on the Future of Europe let pass the chance to update the primary law of Euratom. This article brings central points of a reform of the Euratom Treaty to the forefront.

Jacques Santer

25 Years of European Integration in Retrospect

In his speech at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Yearbook of European Integration, the former Commission President reflects on two and a half decades of European integration from his own personal perspective. He describes the constellation under which he became Commission President without even seeking candidacy and sketches the development of the relationship between the Commission he led and the European Parliament. For the first time, he speaks publicly about the circumstances that eventually led to the dismissal of his Commission. He justi-

fies the reasons for which the college chose a voluntary dismissal and not a vote on a motion of no confidence in the European Parliament. It is from his personal experiences during this time that Santer then draws conclusions regarding the future role of the Commission President.

Günter Gloser

Energy Policy for Europe: A Main Focus of the German Council Presidency

The European Union has begun to engage itself in energy policy with a new intensity, and Germany would like to actively participate in shaping this discussion. Energy policy will therefore be a major focus of the German EU-presidency in the first half of 2007. Environmental sustainability, competitiveness and supply security, the three equally important goals of German energy policy, are also guiding principles for an 'Energy Policy for Europe'. A central element of the German presidency in the field of energy will be the passing of an energy action plan at the European Council in the spring of 2007. Additional important goals will be the completion of the internal market for electricity and gas by all member states, the strengthening of supply security through internal and external measures, the improvement of energy efficiency, the continuation of the development of renewable energies and energy research with special attention to be given to the development of more efficient energy technologies that respond directly to the demands of the market. Finally, international energy relations will also be a special focus.

Joachim Wuermeling

From Internal Market to Economic Patriotism?

For the federal economics minister, European policy forms an important cornerstone in the creation of the political framework for the German economy. The federal government has resolved to use this role actively in order to, as early as intended, be able to bring German interests into the formation process of European law and will entirely dedicate itself to the question of the internal market under the German council presidency. Germany has much to offer that is interesting and attractive for other member states. Therefore, more boldness and more confidence would be desirable in shaping and completing the internal market. However, the 'sweet poison' of both open and hidden economic patriotism must be counteracted. The recipe for this is reacting better to the needs of enterprises and of citizens, trimming bureaucratic burdens, limiting protectionism to only what is absolutely essential and adhering strictly to the subsidiarity principle.

Übersetzung aus dem Deutschen von William L. Metzger